

**REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action of March 13, 2003, favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended for the purposes of clarity. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at at least claims 11 and 21 of the application as originally filed. Claims 1-29 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,326,965 to Castelli et al. ("Castelli"). Castelli describes a method for representing and retrieving multi-dimensional data using a view element data structure containing node elements and transition elements. Castelli describes in column 5, lines 14-25 that each node element stores lattice point data and meta-data associated with a particular view element, and each transition element connects an input group of view elements to an output group of view elements. Castelli further describes that the transition elements define methods by which the input groups of view elements can be processed to generate the output groups of view elements, such as spatial segmentation, frequency decomposition, spatial composition and frequency synthesis.

Independent claim 1 is directed to "a method of organizing image data forming a picture image defined by a plurality of levels, each level including a plurality of subpicture areas corresponding to a different level of image data resolution relative to image data resolution levels corresponding to subpicture areas in other levels." The method includes the feature of "upon a determination that the amount of image data in the identified subpicture area exceeds a

predetermined maximum amount following the step of placing, identifying overlapping subpicture areas in a level corresponding to the next higher image data resolution level that overlaps the identified subpicture area.”

The Office Action refers to column 6, lines 2-37 of Castelli as describing the feature of claim 1 of “upon a determination that the amount of image data in the identified subpicture area exceeds a predetermined maximum amount following the step of placing, identifying overlapping subpicture areas in a level corresponding to the next higher image data resolution level that overlaps the identified subpicture area.” Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action’s interpretation of the cited portions of Castelli.

Column 6, lines 2-12 of Castelli describe a view element compression subsystem in which view element selection logic selects a set of view elements from a view element data structure. Castelli describes that the view elements sets can be selected on the basis of such factors as optimizing the rate-distortion compression performance, minimizing an additive information cost function such as entropy, optimizing view extraction speed, minimizing storage space, or satisfying constraints of completeness or non-redundancy. Column 6, lines 12-37 of Castelli describes a process for generating views of an image from view elements that includes supplying a view request specifying a region of interest from the image, and translating the view request into a selection of view elements. A view element selection subsystem compares the view elements in storage to the view elements that are needed to satisfy the view request. The view element selection subsystem analyzes the node elements of the view elements in storage, the node

elements of the requested view, and the transition nodes between view elements in the view element data structure in order to select a set of view elements from storage, and define a processing program by which the view elements can be retrieved from storage and processed to generate the requested view.

Applicant respectfully submits that Castelli fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of claim 1 of “upon a determination that the amount of image data in the identified subpicture area exceeds a predetermined maximum amount following the step of placing, identifying overlapping subpicture areas in a level corresponding to the next higher image data resolution level that overlaps the identified subpicture area.” Applicant submits that Castelli describes neither determining that the amount of image data in an identified subpicture area exceeds a predetermined maximum amount nor identifying overlapping subpicture areas in a level corresponding to a next higher image data resolution that overlaps an identified subpicture area. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 distinguishes over Castelli and requests that the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 11 is directed to “a computer software product for a graphics display system that organizes image data forming a picture image defined by a plurality of levels, each level including a plurality of subpicture areas corresponding to a different level of image data resolution relative to image data resolution levels corresponding to subpicture areas in other level.” The computer software product includes instructions for “upon a determination that the amount of image data in the identified subpicture area exceeds a predetermined maximum amount

following the instruction for placing, identifying overlapping subpicture areas in a level corresponding to the next higher image data resolution level that overlaps the identified subpicture area.” For similar reasons to those discussed with respect to independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 11 distinguishes over Castelli and requests that the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claim 11 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 21 is directed to “a graphics display system for organizing image data forming a picture image defined by a plurality of levels, each level including a plurality of subpicture areas corresponding to a different level of image data resolution relative to image data resolution levels corresponding to subpicture areas in other levels.” The graphics display system includes the feature of “upon a determination that the amount of image data in the identified subpicture area exceeds a predetermined maximum amount following the placing, identifying overlapping subpicture areas in a level corresponding to the next higher image data resolution level that overlaps the identified subpicture area.” For similar reasons to those discussed with respect to independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 21 distinguishes over Castelli and requests that the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claim 21 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-29 are dependent upon and further limit their respective independent claims 1, 11, and 21. For at least the reasons as discussed with respect to independent claims 1, 11, and 21, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-

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29 also distinguish over Castelli and requests that the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-29 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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